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MADRAS WAR REVIEW

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

VOL. V FRIDAY, MAY 12, 1944 No. 36

NO DANGER *of* INVASION *of* INDIA

SIR SULTAN AHMED

I have come back with the fullest confidence that the Japs will be defeated completely and that there is really no danger of an invasion of India

FIVE impressions stand out in my mind :

FIRST AND FOREMOST is the confidence courage and determination with which our men look forward to the coming encounter with the enemy

SECOND, the overwhelming supplies of weapons and armoured transport in evidence everywhere

THIRD, our unquestioned superiority in the air, disturbed only by occasional sneak raids by the enemy

FOURTH, that the Japanese have been trapped, and must either withdraw before the rains set in or be annihilated, and

FINALLY, the duty of us all to our men at the front

WHAT impressed me most of all was the high morale of our Indian troops, who repeatedly assured me that they would not return to their homes until they had driven away and inflicted a crushing defeat on the Japanese

THE truth is that our forces are comfortably established at Imphal, and eager to give battle to the Japanese the moment they come out into the open from the jungles in which they are hiding

SIR SULTAN AHMED, *at New Delhi, on Tuesday*

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[NOTE.—*The summary of news and comments contained in the* MADRAS WAR REVIEW *generally relate to events and statements published till Wednesday, every week.*]

BRITISH ASSISTANCE TO RUSSIA

"Between the first of October 1941 and March 31, 1944, we have supplied to the Soviet Union 5,031 tanks, of which 1,223 were from Canada. We have supplied 6,778 aircraft, including 2,672 sent from the United States. These latter were sent on United States Lend-Lease to the Soviet Union as part of British commitment in exchange for the supply of British aircraft to United States forces in the European theatre.

We have also sent over 80 million sterling worth of raw material, foodstuffs, machinery, industrial plants, medical supplies and comforts. A considerable proportion of these supplies have been fought through to Russia along Arctic routes under the general direction of the Commander-in-Chief of the Home Fleet."

MR. CHURCHILL, *in London, on Wednesday.*

❖

CRITICAL STAGE OF WAR

"This critical stage of the war demands that in the coming months we must make the fullest use of all our trained men to ensure that there is the greatest possible weight behind our blows and that the impetus of our attack is maintained."

SIR JAMES GRIGG, *British Secretary of War, in the Commons, on Friday.*

❖

ALLIED EFFORT MUST BE MAINTAINED

Australia lays stress on the importance of a combined Allied military effort against Japan and while recognizing and accepting the strategy of 'Beat Hitler First' points out that because that will mean a prolonged war in the Pacific, it is essential that a certain minimum effort must be maintained in the Pacific so that prolongation will not become a stalemate. This point of view has been completely accepted by the Prime Ministers' Conference.

The British Commonwealth must recognize that the interests of all its members are involved in the ability of Australia to maintain and expand British institutions in the Pacific. In particular Australia wants her partners in the Commonwealth to understand the vital position Australia occupied in Commonwealth affairs.

MR. JOHN CURTIN, *Prime Minister of Australia, in a B.B.C. Broadcast from London, on Monday.*

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THE FAMILY OF NATIONS

THE Conference of Dominion Prime Ministers, which was opened by Mr. Churchill on May Day, marks yet another step in the direction of closer co-operation within the British Commonwealth of Nations. It is, as the British Premier remarked, undoubtedly one of the most important events that have taken place since the outbreak of the war. And it has taken place on the eve of one of the great military turning points. Representatives of all the self-governing Dominions have gathered together in London with their military and civil advisers to take stock of the situation. "It is right," said Mr. Churchill, "that the British Empire, in its collective and united aspect, should put itself solidly on the map and make all the watching world realise that it stands together woven into one family of nations capable of solving our common problems in full loyalty to the supreme cause, for which we have drawn the sword, and which we shall not cease to pursue until complete victory has been won." Such a conference is an effective reply to enemy propaganda which has been trying to sow seeds of dissension, not only among the Allies themselves, but also among the members of the Commonwealth. The representatives of the Dominions and India who are all imbued with the one purpose of ending the Axis domination in as complete a manner as possible, would have been acquainted with the details of the gigantic Second Front preparations now in hand and the broad outline of the strategic plans chalked out by Allied leaders, both for war and for peace.

Significance of the Conference

THE significance of this great meeting lies in the fact that the institution of the Imperial Conference has stood the impact of two great wars and still stands as an object-lesson in international co-operation. It was in 1887 that a meeting of this kind called the Colonial Conference was first held. Queen Victoria celebrated her Golden Jubilee that year, and a number of Prime Ministers were invited to London to attend the function. Advantage was taken of the presence of the Premiers and a Colonial Conference was held to discuss matters of common interest. Very few then thought that this Conference would later blossom into an important feature in Commonwealth relations, though, at the time, the British Colonial Secretary expressed the hope that "results may grow out of it affecting in a degree which it is at present impossible to appreciate, the interests of the Empire and of the civilized world." The next session of the Conference took place after 20 years—in 1907. At this Conference it was decided to drop the word "Colony" and adopt the phrase the "Self-governing Dominions beyond the Seas." The Imperial Conference of 1926 referring to the Dominions declared that the nations associated in the British Commonwealth were, "self-governing communities within the British Empire, equal in status, in no way subordinate to the other." In 1931 the Statute of Westminster gave formal legal approval to this development.

India and the Commonwealth

NOW, for the first time since 1937, the Prime Ministers of the Dominions have met in London. India is represented at the Conference by Sir Firoz Khan Noon and His Highness the Maharajah of Kashmir; they have met the Premiers of the Commonwealth countries as equals, not only because India's political status is assured, but also because India's contribution to the war effort of the British Commonwealth is as great as that of most of its other members. Referring to this, *Fortune*, an American magazine, says, "India's once-so-small army of volunteers now numbers two million and is growing every day. The Indian Government has established its own, but not unimportant, Navy and Air Force. In the past five years India's steel production has doubled. Perhaps most significant of all, India, so long Britain's debtor is now Britain's creditor in the amount of over two million dollars, with her British bank balance now growing at the rate of about 700 million dollars per year." The magazine adds that, as a result of these circumstances, India may emerge from the war as a huge power within the British Commonwealth. India which has been closely following the development of Commonwealth relations well understands that she has a big part to play in Commonwealth co-operation and collaboration which will be continued and strengthened after the war. She knows deep in her heart of hearts that only in the strength and solidarity of the Commonwealth lies the well-being of every component part.

RUNNING COMMENTARY

Manipur Hill Front— A Retrospect— Kohima and Imphal It has been announced from Admiral MOUNTBATTEN's Headquarters that on all sectors of the Manipur Hill Front there is now a general Japanese offensive and that the Japanese are strongly counter-attacking to regain the forward positions they have lost recently. Fierce fighting is going on for Kohima, where our troops have captured positions north and south of the town. Some idea of the progress of our troops may be gathered from the statement of a war correspondent that whereas on the eve of the present battle the Japanese held three-fourths of the Kohima area, to-day our forces are holding more than half. In the Imphal area, where there have been isolated clashes, our patrols have penetrated to 28 miles north of Imphal on the Kohima road. The general position is that in both these areas our troops have wrested the initiative from the enemy.

Looking back on the trend of operations of the past two weeks, it seems probable that we may have underestimated the Japanese capacity to bring reinforcements and get supplies along the perilous Naga Hill tracts. It was evidently this underestimate that was responsible for the enemy cutting the arterial road on which the 14th Army Group was depending for supplies. This road runs parallel to the front from Tiddim in the south through Imphal to Kohima, and then on to Dimapur in the Assam-Bengal Railway.

The Japanese three-pronged thrust was intended to cut this road, break it into isolated sections, and disrupt the entire front. At one time, the situation seemed dangerous, for the enemy encircled the 17th Indian Division north of Tiddim and controlled the Tiddim-Imphal section of the road northward to within 25 miles of Imphal. It was at this time that Tokyo began to talk loud of the "annihilation" of the 17th Indian Division but our troops broke the encirclement and fought their way through to the Imphal plain almost intact. The third move of the enemy pushed our defences along the Tamu-Imphal road to within 45 miles of Imphal. Further north, the enemy established road blocks between Imphal and Kohima and between Kohima and Dimapur. Then the tide turned.

BRITISH SUBMARINES PREPARE FOR PATROL.—Picture shows: *Members of a British submarine crew carrying shells on board in preparation for a patrol.*

Kohima has been relieved and operations have been launched from Imphal to clear the Manipur road. As for the Imphal plain itself which is a bowl of about 30 miles wide and 45 miles long it is held by a very strong force and it is not likely that the enemy who failed at Kohima would succeed at Imphal.

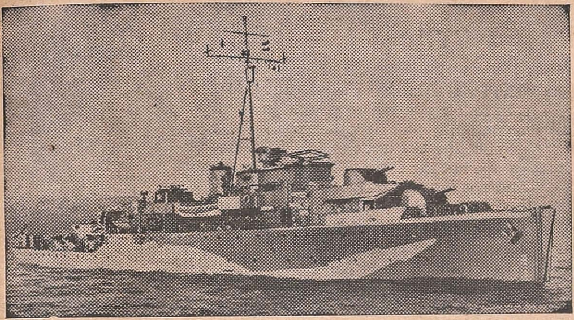
* * *

North Burma Front— Stilwell's Progress As regards North Burma, though activity in this area has been limited by bad weather, General STILWELL's Chinese and American Army is making more progress. This consists of two American-trained Chinese divisions, an American column and a number of Chinese guerilla formations. Their task is that of clearing the first stretch of the country for the new Burma Road. They advanced from Ledo through Pangsau Pass and moved south-east across the Hukawng Valley towards Myitkyina and Mogaung, building a metal road as they advanced. When this road reaches Myitkyina, it is likely that it may be continued south to Bhamo, from where there is a good road which joins the old Burma Road at Wanting in the Yunnan province.

But before this happens the climax of the war in Europe would have been reached and passed. Meanwhile the task facing General Stilwell is to reach Myitkyina and consolidate his position there.

Another aspect of the war in Burma relates to the work of the famous air-borne expedition of the late General WINGATE, which has established itself deep in enemy territory over 150 miles behind the Japanese positions. The story of their landing in a jungle clearing in pitch darkness will be among the most thrilling episodes in the history of this war. It is stated that American aircraft released their gliders which were filled with British soldiers and parties of American engineers and that, within 12 hours, the engineers constructed landing strips which enabled the transport aircraft carrying the main body of British troops, to land safely. Eight days later the Japanese discovered what had happened. But by that time an airfield protected by R.A.F. Spitfires and British anti-air-craft batteries had already come into being. A similar attempt was repeated on a greater scale at another site which was later discovered by an infiltrating column of the 14th Army Group.

The result of these air-borne expeditions is that in a wide area between Katha on the one side and Bhamo and Mogaung on the other, our air power has been strongly established. That there is definite and complete air superiority on the Burma front is clear from the fact that there is a continual air traffic bringing in supplies and evacuating the wounded, which the enemy is not able to interrupt.



H.M.S. CYGNET.—*A British Sloop.*

UNWITTING TRAITORS

By LIEUT.-COL. S. J. LEMIN

I am going to ask you to do a few things at the end of this short talk, but here is one thing I ask you to do now. And that is, don't switch off. Please listen to me. It won't take long.

I'll come to the point straight away. It is this careless talk business. No, no, don't switch off. Thanks.

Unwitting Traitors. Quite a dramatic title and perhaps a bit theatrical, eh? Is that what you think? Oh, but if I could only make each one of you understand—but I am jumping ahead.

I want to talk to all of you, those in uniform and those out of it, because my experience has shown me that there are almost as many unwitting traitors in the armed forces as there are in what we call Civvy-Street.

SECURITY POSTERS

Do you remember those first few months of the war when the first set of security posters were issued? They were from the pen of that famous artist, Fougasse, and they made us smile. Hitler was in telephone boxes, in railway carriages, in picture frames, often badly disguised as a painter, candlestick maker or as a maggot in a lump of cheese. He was listening . . . always listening. Even in those early days it was realized that men and women with eyes and ears could, and would talk. They would use their freedom of speech birthright to such an extent that the Intelligence Staffs of Hitler and Mussolini would learn of our doings in our tight little island and so supply them with scraps of information which when pieced together would make sense.

You remember those posters. And you remember that they were fun. And then suddenly another poster was seen on the hoardings in trams, bube restaurants, railway stations—wherever you went. You'll remember this one too. It is still going strong and I think it is the best poster of its kind yet produced. It shows one of our ships going down, hundreds of little black specks in the water, and underneath is written "CARELESS TALK COSTS LIVES." Those hundreds of little black specks in the water . . . men, loyal citizens, husbands, fathers, sons, sweethearts of other loyal citizens whom they loved, tried to work and fight for. Poor devils, they din't have a chance. Now, that poster came into being because we had clear proof that information picked up by enemy agents and informers from the mouths of loyal citizens was getting out in time for the enemy to act. The propaganda (I dislike the word, but there it is), the propaganda was overhauled and it was found that, clever as the first set posters were, they did not bring home to the public the ghastly tragedy of loose talk. As time went on so the general trend was to make the posters more tragic if possible, for the idea was that every family had someone in the services, and that the average citizen was a reasonably intelligent sort of person who would appreciate the force of the argument. The majority of people certainly did make an effort and when a few highly placed officials got sacked for breaches of security and members of the public went to jail, they began to pull their socks up, especially when reports appeared in the newspapers of officers and men being court-martialled for the same thing.

I said the majority were more careful, but there will always be that type who want to make themselves interesting for a few moments—to become more important. These people, these unwitting traitors, want to show how much they know, and as they have eyes and ears, and must in these days live somewhere in an area which is either of army, navy or airforce importance, they were naturally in the position to know something. More than likely what they did know and did chatter about was already known to the enemy, but our loyal citizens were not to know that. Oh, it's a small mean mind that practices that sort of thing—like the type of woman who spends her day looking through the curtains at the house opposite to see who calls and then passes the news over the garden wall. But, unfortunately, it is not *reputations* that the careless talker kills.

But don't misunderstand me. I am not inferring that women are the chief offenders. Any man who knows women (and they are not so frightfully difficult to understand) knows only too well that if anybody can keep a secret, it is a woman. And how!

So, I think I am right in saying that CARELESS TALK education was moderately successful, but was made far more so by getting hold of somebody and letting him or her get it good and proper. And then when a voice within them said, "There: but for the grace of God and a hell of a lot of lick goes I."

So that is one point I have tried to make clear. That those who direct the war know how essential it is that people should not be allowed to talk on matters likely to assist the enemy. The Finance authorities have paid away millions for "Keep your mouth shut" campaign because they *know*. Those of you (I should say us), who have had to fill up countless forms for submission through the usual channels in order to get a few official expenses paid, will appreciate that point.

Now, I have said, "Information likely to assist the enemy." That is not as vague a term as many people think it to be.

ENEMY AGENTS

From the outset you must realize that enemy agents *do exist*. Now, who are these enemy agents? Would you recognize one if you saw one? If you were on the staff of enemy Intelligence would you plant agents who looked like agents, or would you plant someone who would pass in a crowd and never be noticed? Somebody who fits right into the picture? Again, if you were enemy intelligence would you leave a part of the country uncovered by your agents where troops, ships, aerodromes, factories or ordnance depots exist? Be reasonable: of course, you would not. So you must accept that fact . . . That enemy agents *do* exist.

Mr. and Mrs. Clever Person will now ask: "Well, what are the Police doing about it?" I am in a position to know what the Police are doing about it, and you can take it from me that they *have* done and *are doing* plenty. So, if Mr. and Mrs. Clever Person or any of their nasty little children think that their curiosity is going to be satisfied—the've had it. Enemy agents, Mr. and Mrs. Clever Person, have been known to possess radios for listening as well as transmitting; and, would it surprise you to know that enemy agents are listening to me now at this very moment?

Right. Now, we are back again to "information likely to assist the enemy." I have a list in front of me stating what they want to find out. It is a very lengthy document and almost compiled of just the things we want to know about the enemy. I shall not read it to you. It would waste time anyway. But they want to know anything

about troops movements, their locations, where they have come from, where they are going. Our war materials and supplies, our casualties, the arrival and departure of ship, where troops are training and type of training—in fact there is hardly anything that anyone can say about naval, military or air force matters which the enemy will not be very glad to receive. Don't be afraid of reporting something which may end in smoke. 99·5 of the cases investigated do end in smoke. But ·5 delivers the goods.

Now your duty is quite plain. Don't talk carelessly and don't allow others in your presence to talk carelessly. Think twice before you commit anything to paper and three times before you post the letter, talking down to you. I am sorry about that but if I am talking down to you—talking of elementary safeguards—who's to blame? Certainly not me.

For nearly five years careless talk posters and lantern slides and radio warnings have been thrown at you by advertising experts who, before the war, used to sell their ideas to you by the same methods. Then of course, it was soap, margarine, chocolates. They sold them to you successfully because you went some of the way to meet them. Well, go some of the way to meet an idea designed to safeguard information likely to assist the enemy—and give our lads a sporting chance.

TAKE NO CHANCES

I know how easy it is to say "you mustn't do this, you mustn't do that" and how difficult it is, with the war all around, to keep off military matters. It is difficult—but not impossible. Try to emulate the man who received a letter from a firm of undertakers informing him that his mother-in-law was dead and to telegraph instructions as to disposal. He wired back "Embalm Cremate Bury. Take No Chances."

Well, ladies and gentlemen, there it is. We all used to think that security was something every woman wanted but security means now the discipline of the closed mouth and careful pen.

No use for your defending counsel to plead that you are a loyal citizen. You are all loyal citizens. That doesn't come into it. Your defending counsel will have to prove that when you talked carelessly you did not give information likely to assist the enemy. And in view of what I've said, that's going to be mighty difficult.

If you are found guilty it's almost certain that you will get imprisonment or a heavy fine, or both.

Please believe me when I tell you that my job in this war has confronted me with the most heart-breaking proof of the results of these tit-bits of tittle-tattle. Is a heavy fine and imprisonment too much? If the countless victims of careless talk could speak what would be their opinion?

I am sure their spirits would only rest if they could dance the Maypole round a forest of gallows where careless talkers, with their tongues lolling out, dangle at the end of silken ropes. Good-night.

—A recent talk broadcast from A.I.R., Madras.

PICTURES FOR THE FUEHRER

(*By* R.G.)

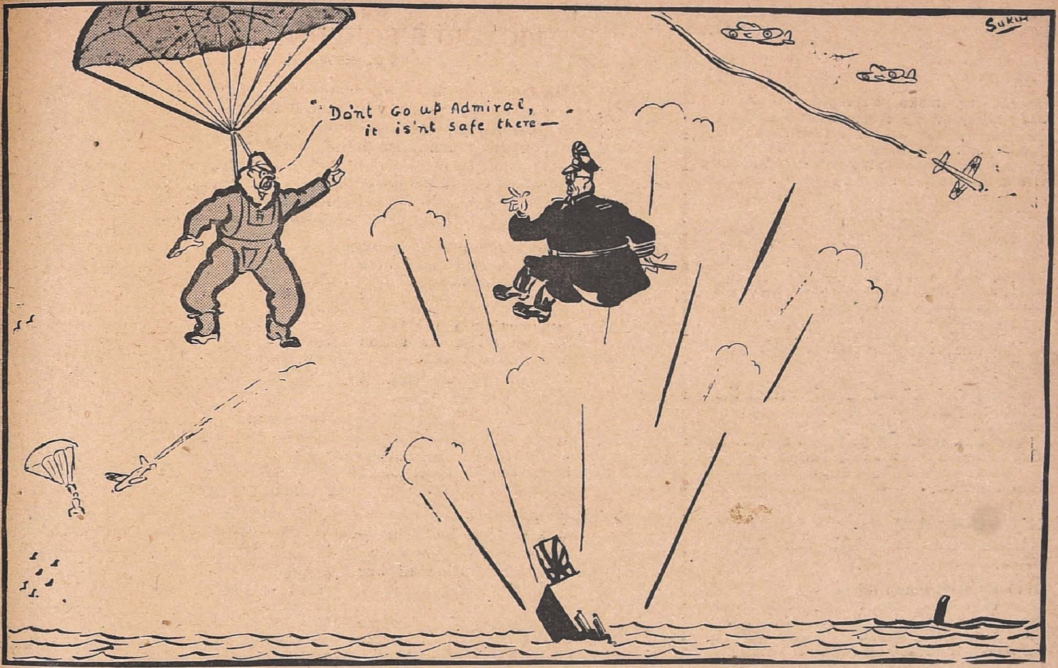
The faces—the faces will haunt you
and follow you where you lie in luxury
or painfully plot new mischief.
You, the Leader, the dread Dictator,
escape not the faces caught by the camera
and not in mere memory kept
but on unforgetting paper and on film
unperishing to the thousandth horrible repetition.

Even through your vanity
and pride and ambition
sometimes those eyes may pierce
telling of humanity marshalled like machines
but insistently human.
See, there courage is, and there
pity: tears drop down, smiles brighten.
These are men and women, say the faces.
If you saw only their backs
burdened with gear domestic or martial
and bent to bear like pack-animals
you might imagine them chattels
to be used and broken
as indeed you have used and broken
millions that never harmed you.
But you see the faces; these are men and women
and children; they know duty and devilry
and will answer kindness or a curse.

Even through your vanity
and pride and ambition blacking out the world
the faces will flare. And to our eyes
(not without their own beams and blots
but seeing clear through clean patches)
they shine as stars or rain
from the clouds beyond the casement,
twitch the curtains like the wind,
dance on the ceiling of the mind as light will
from mirrors or metal. For these are
they who suffer, they who endure,
they who from the infernal confines
(though many are lost) bring back
themselves still human, and sometimes
a flower to promise Spring.

Your own brave you have wantonly squandered
and your virtuous ones thrown carelessly away
or brutally broken. Many have been valorous
and some in your despite honourable.
In your hall of horrors their pictures
hang with the others, the butchers, the hell-hounds:
and besmirched though they be by your cause
preserve the soul of your people
lest they utterly perish in your iniquity.
Remember their faces, under the flail of your torturers
or bearing the battle of your arrogant fraud
in the name of the fatherland.
They reproach you till the day of your death.

But mark yet more the faces on every front
of matchless sailors, soldiers, airmen, workers,
the world's weapon for your destruction.
Through trial and tribulation and desperate strait
or encounter hazardous and even hopeless, these,
set grim or grinning irrepressibly,
announce for you a determined end,
a doom deserved.



A Japanese destroyer has been sunk by one of His Majesty's submarines in the Bay of Bengal

—Specially drawn for the MADRAS WAR REVIEW.

THE SIXTH COLUMN'S CHANCE

By FRANCIS FIELDING

SHIVERING in the raw air of early morning, ragged, unshaven and hungry, a group of Frenchmen shuffle into line at the order of their guards. Before them is a day's work at a Nazi labour camp.

They have little enough cause to smile, underfed, underpaid, overworked, hundreds of miles from home. But they do smile, a derisory smile, with more malice than mirth in it. It is their guards who look glum. They know the Frenchmen hate them, and those among them who are fanatical Nazis despise the Frenchmen. But over the months a certain rough tolerance has grown up. You cannot shoot everyone who opens his mouth, and it is easier to shoot a Frenchman than to keep him silent.

This morning they have plenty to say. It is the guards who are silent. There is no response when a Frenchman remarks to the air that a man can be quite happy with one leg or half a face. There is a snarl to hurry up when another remembers this is the last day of the old year and wishes the guards a good time in the last year they have to live.

The Frenchmen talk loudly among themselves as they move off. They agree that they must start a fund for the orphans of such admirable messieurs as their soon-to-be-dead guards.

The guards have been combed out for the dreaded Eastern Front.

The Frenchmen are conducting the nerve war, part of the all-comprehending war of sabotage, which the Sixth Column against Hitler the 8,000,000 foreign workers inside Nazi Germany, wage against their oppressors.

Stories of this "nerve war" trickle out continuously with escaped prisoners and workers from Germany. Discipline and the moral of the guards varies, and there are Nazi slave camps where a bullet or a blow would silence the mockers. But as darkness deepens over the Third Reich the labour slaves and the prisoners speak and act more boldly.

One escaped worker described recently how on one farm the French prisoners began the day's work by singing in chorus the "song of the farmer's wife whose husband never came back."

At another, the camp guards wilted under the nerve warfare. The man who brought out the story describes what happened in his own words "We did good business after that with soldiers when the authorities, terrified of a typhus epidemic, were segregating those infested with lice. We had large supplies of these insects, and we used to sell them to the German soldiers for the price of five marks apiece."

Horrible? Of course it is horrible—as horrible as the foul Nazi creed which thus compels man to abandon kindliness and decency and hit back with every weapon their hands and tongues can devise.

Not all the incidents are so grim. In one camp some of the prisoners had a portrait of General de Gaulle in their room. How they got it was a mystery, but, as one sentry said: "Shut a Frenchman up, stark-naked in a cell and the next day you'll find him fully dressed with his pockets stuffed with cigarettes."

The authorities ordered the removal of the portrait. There was a long and heated argument, but eventually the prisoners won.

Hitler's imported slaves are the greatest Sixth Column in the history of the world. I can write most freely of the million and a quarter Frenchmen among them; but there can be no doubt that great numbers of Poles, Russians, Ukrainians, Greeks and others who have been swept up from all the corners of Europe are equally united in their hatred of the Germans and their determination to sabotage even at the risk of life.

Sabotage is no longer individual and un-co-ordinated. It is planned and directed. The resistance movement in France has issued orders to the workers and prisoners in Germany. They are addressed to "a French worker forcibly enrolled for Germany."

WHAT I HAVE DONE IN ITALY

By MARSHAL BADOGLIO, *Head of the Government*

LET us make a rapid review of Italian events from July 25, 1943, until now. On July 25, following His Majesty's order to Mussolini to resign consequent upon the vote of the Fascist Grand Council, I assumed power.

During the month and a half during which it functioned in Rome, the Government presided over by me took the following measures:—

(1) The dissolution of the Fascist Party, Grand Council, the Fascist Chamber and corporations.

(2) Promulgation of the law regarding illicitly acquired fortunes.

(3) The removal of 50 Fascist prefects and their replacement by professionals.

(4) Elimination of Fascists from the principal posts in State and semi-State concerns.

(5) Arrest of the principal and most dangerous Fascist Party leaders.

(6) Absorption of the Fascist militia into the Army.

SOUGHT CONTACT

These measures, which were fiercely resisted by the Germans, immediately occasioned the descent into Italy of numerous German divisions. Against this disposition we had no means to make resistance because Mussolini, as Commander-in-Chief of all our armed forces, had disseminated our divisions outside Italy.

Fully 36 divisions were outside our territory; therefore only 12 shrunken, ill-armed divisions garrisoned the continent.

It being impossible, owing to the lack of supplies and the decided unwillingness of our people, to continue the war, we sought by means of emissaries to make contact with the British and Americans for the conclusion of an armistice.

BLAME "CHILDISH"

We are blamed for having delayed too long the conclusion of an armistice, but this is childish, for it is evident that in order to reach a conclusion it was necessary that the other party also should consent, whereas up to September 3, we never had the approval of the Allied Supreme Command. Simple declaration of an armistice or unilateral surrender would have placed us at the mercy of the Germans without any hope of help from the Anglo-Americans.

Our command had concentrated at least six divisions to defend Rome. But after the proclamation of the armistice on the evening of September 8, German divisions garrisoned in the neighbourhood of the city suddenly moved against Rome.

For reasons which in due course will be ascertained, after a few episodes of strenuous resistance, our defences totally collapsed.

It was impossible to remain in Rome without falling into the hands of the Germans.

STRIKE PLANNED

Therefore, the royal family, I myself, and such Ministers whom I could warn made for Brindisi, passing via Tivoli and Pescara.

During the six weeks of my authority in Rome all the authentic heads of the political parties accorded full support to my Government.

The proof is this. Through German agents' machinations, preparations were made for a general strike on September 1. On August 31, there appeared in the newspapers a declaration by all authentic party leaders summoning the workers to abstain from any strike or action directed against the Government.

Shortly afterwards at Brindisi I received a telegram from America from Count Sforza in which he stated he considered criminal any opposition to my Government so long as I enjoyed the trust of the Allies, and that all our internal questions should be re-solved after the conclusion of the war.

MEN OF GOODWILL

Delighted by this communication, I proceeded along the path already traced and arranged the declaration of war against Germany, obtaining from the Allies co-belligerency.

It is unnecessary to repeat, because everybody knows it, in what manner Sforza's declaration was implemented.

Having reconstructed the Government with men of absolute goodwill, who, like myself, considered what was necessary to make the maximum contribution to the war and initiate the reconstruction of the country, we set to work observing the following principles:—

(1) Resolutely to dismount the complex and intricate Fascist structure which for 22 years had, like an octopus, permeated the whole structure and activities of the State, and simultaneously removed from all posts, control and responsibility all those who had been leaders of the Fascist Party. This principle had been provided for by the decree regarding de-Fascistization and the creation of a commissionership for the purging of which Tito Zaniboni was nominated.

(2) To collaborate with the best will and the most complete loyalty with the United Nations in order to win the war. The activity of the Government and our armed forces in this sense has been fully recognized by the Allied Governments. This is shown by the transference of the administration of the provinces to the Government and by the speech in the House of Commons by Churchill.

(3) To improve as far as possible, considering our financial exhaustion, the situation of wage and salary-earners. This has been implemented by decrees on employees' salaries, industrial and agricultural workers' wages and increase of subsidies to pensioners and clergy.

(4) To organize territory for the quicker and more equitable distribution of foodstuffs. Difficulties in the way are many, seeing the poverty of our means of communication, but we hope to be able sensibly to improve the situation. Truly notable aid in this field has been generously given by the Allies, and I desire once more to express my warm gratitude.

(5) To restore our industries, road communications, railways, telegraphs and telephones. Despite the enormous damage inflicted and the scantiness of the means at our disposal, we have gone forward on the path of reconstruction.

(6) Leave liberty of action to the Press within the strict limits of the exigencies of war. Although this liberty of which we had lost the habit may have produced disorder in every direction, I am convinced good order will prevail and that we shall reach a level of calm, dignified, solidly argued discussion of our most urgent problems.

(7) To put off until the end of the war, that is, until the whole Italian people can freely manifest their own will, all discussions and provisions regarding our future State organization.

FRIENDLY STATES

So much for our internal problem. As to our external contacts, it has been my care to resume friendly relations with States from which no dispute had ever divided us and renew with those against whom we had become ranged in this disastrous war relations of cordiality and mutual comprehension.

The results of this strenuous work will later be made known.

Criticisms of all sorts may be levelled against us. Only those who act make mistakes. But nobody can cast doubt on our immense love for this tormented Italy or our unshakeable determination to make every effort which may help to raise her again.

ITALIAN BATTLEFRONT

In a broadcast talk from Delhi over All-India Radio, a staff officer of G.H.Q., who has just returned from a tour of the Italian front, gave a vivid discription of the countryside around Cassino which appeared to have a peculiar grimness and bleakness of its own. The olive groves were blasted, he said and the trees were barren skeletons, while the little towns and villages within the battle area were wrecked and totally deserted. In Cassino itself there were Allied troops and Germans in the town; by day you moved cautiously from hidey hole to hidey hole; by night the broken town became a place of swift, silent movement, of slaughter and the taking of prisoners.

He felt strongly that the Italians were paying a terrible penalty for all their ambitious boasts, and that it was a miserable business being one of Germany's allies. Italy offered a pattern of what Europe was going to be like as our armies advanced.

The talk ended with a few examples of bravery of the Indian and Allied soldiers in this theatre of war. The speaker said that the Allied troops had been toughened and that though they had had and were having a long, arduous, winter campaign they were in very good heart and this was especially true of the Indian formations.

BRITISH HEAVY ACK-ACK GUNNERS IN SOUTH INDIA

SINCE early in April two years ago when the entry of a famous regiment of British Heavy Ack-Ack Gunners into the Madras area was to take place with appropriate ceremonial, in the form of a march-past and salute to His Excellency the Governor, only to be changed at the last moment to a midnight occupation, on the warning of a Japanese task force in the Bay;—since that day, the Regiment has manned its guns continuously in the Madras area and there has never been a moment when it could not have fired within a couple of minutes.

And it is to this regiment that Madras area owes the lay-out and organization of its Ack-Ack defences. Officers of the regiment have also assisted in the lay-out of Ack-Ack defences in various other areas in South India.

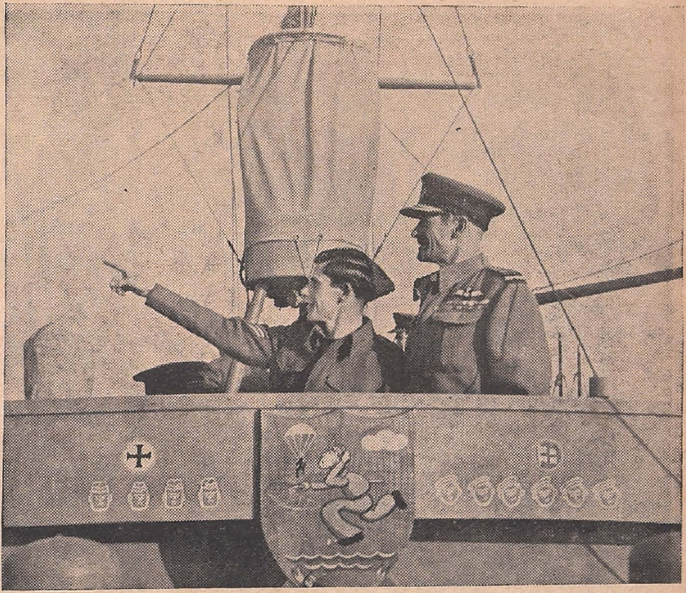
In addition to its normal operational role, the regiment has acted as a virtual training ground for Ack-Ack, losing many of its officers and other ranks to newly raised Indian units and Ack-Ack training centres. Men from all parts of India have been trained by the regiment including a large number of South Indian sepoys and perfect concord and friendship exists between the British and Indian personnel.

Originally raised as a territorial battery in Britain for the defence of London, the regiment went through its baptism of fire during the Blitz of 1940.

Individual exploits of gallantry among the officers and men have been many.

In South India, the regiment has made countless friends. Not only has it got on well with the civilian population, it has also contributed something to the social life of the people, in the form of concert parties and dances.

His Excellency the Governor of Madras, Sir Arthur Hope, who took the salute at a march-past by the regiment recently in the Madras area, complimented the men on their magnificient turn-out. In a reminiscent mood, His Excellency recalled his ten years' experience in the Brigade of Guards and congratulated the men on their turn-out, steadiness and marching, which he said, were very good.



Air Marshal Sir Keith Park, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Royal Air Force,, Middle East, recently visited a number of stations and units in the Western Desert an. Canal Zone, and talked with pilots and ground crews at each place where his aircraft touched down. Picture shows *Sir Keith Park on the Bridge of a High Speed Launch being shown points of interest by Sergeant Ian McLeod of Plymouth, one of the crew.*

His Excellency went on to say that enforced idleness, no doubt, was more boring than work, but he was highly impressed by the high morale, and cheerfulness of the men. "You have gained a fine reputation," His Excellency said, "and I wish you the best of luck in the future."

Referring to the war, His Excellency said every one in Great Britain this time was determined to fight it to the finish and they were determined to see to it that there was no repetition of the war again.

In conclusion the Governor wished the men, every one of them, the best fortune and return eventually to a more peaceful and prosperous England.

The function then came to a close with the men adjourning for tea which was served by the Madras Hospitality Committee, Lady Hope Canteen. Prominent among the guests were Lady Hope, wife of the Governor of Madras herself, Mrs. J. Nuttall, Mrs. B. Barlow, Mrs. Pugh and Mrs. Freland.

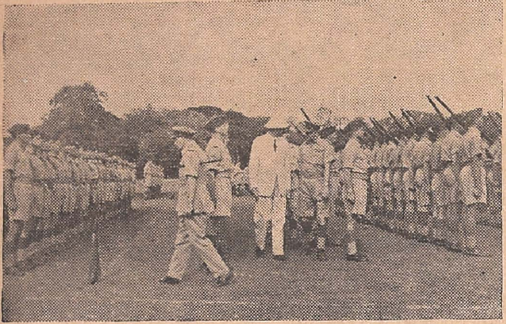
"BLITZ"—MADRAS RADIO FEATURE

The All-India Radio, Madras, and the Public Relations Directorate, Southern Army, deserve to be congratulated on their initiative and enterprise in getting up a feature programme entitled "Blitz" depicting some of the phases of the Battle of Britain, with the help of personnel who had actually been in action in London and Plymouth.

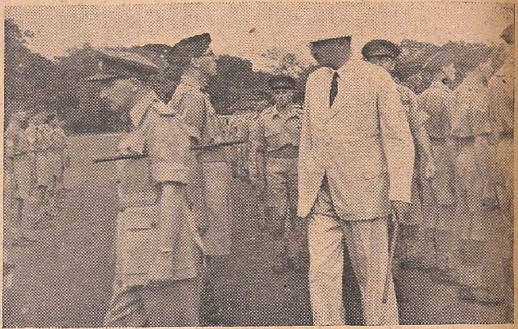
The feature which was electrically recorded, was broadcast from Madras last night (May 11) at 8 p.m.

Pressmen who listened-in at the Studio expressed the opinion that the programme, which lasted for half-an-hour, was quite interesting.

H.E. SIR ARTHUR HOPE INSPECTS

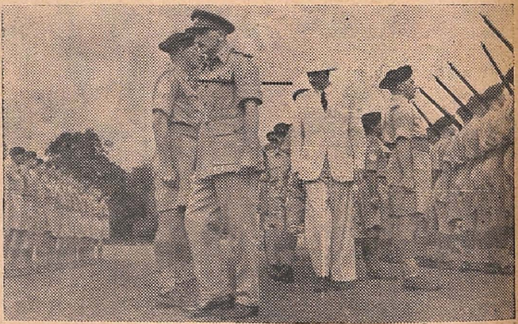


His Excellency the Governor inspecting the men accompanied by Lieutenant-Colonel J. Daniel, T.D., R.A., and B. S. M. Carpenter who comes from London.



The Governor is seen talking to L/Bdr. Freeman whose home is in Exeter. Behind *His Excellency are Lieutenant-Colonel J. Daniel, T.D., R.A. (Cornwall), Captain S. G. Brokenshire (Cornwall) and Major W.A. Polglaze (also from Cornwall).* Leading *His Excellency is his A.D.C. Captain Coombes.*

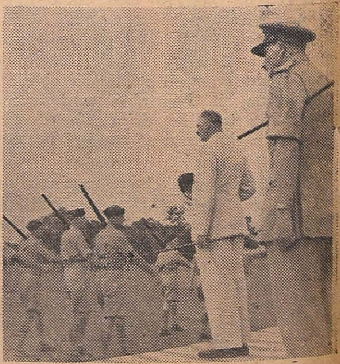
His Excellency Sir Arthur Hope, Governor of Madras, inspecting the men. Behind *His Excellency can be seen Major C. C. Rutherford who comes from Montreal, Canada.*



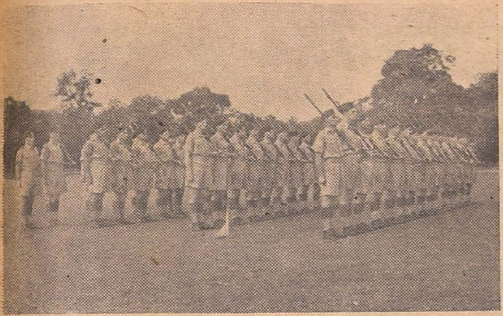
Another view of His Excellency Sir Arthur Hope, Governor of Madras inspecting the troops. Easily identified in the picture are B. S.M. Eplett who hails from Cornwall and Sgt. Stacey, who is from London.

Left—*The men march-past His Excellency Sir Arthur Hope, Governor of Madras who took the salute.* In the picture can be seen, *Sergeant Dark from Padstow, Cornwall; Sergeant Lewis, Aberdare, Glamorgan; Lieutenant Gilbert, Cornwall, Sergeant Loop, London; and Sergeant Stacey, London.*

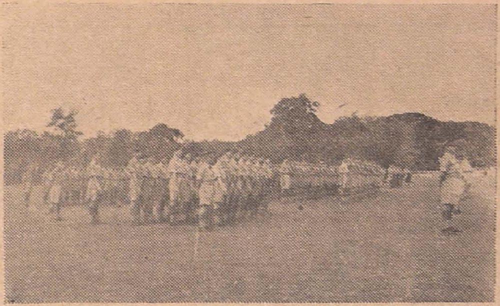
Right—*Another view of the march-past with His Excellency Sir Arthur Hope, Governor of Madras, taking the salute.* In the picture are *Sergeant W. Snook, Bristol; Gnr. Wear from Winscombe, Somerset; Gnr. Lane (Liverpool), and Gnr. Pope, Portsmouth.*



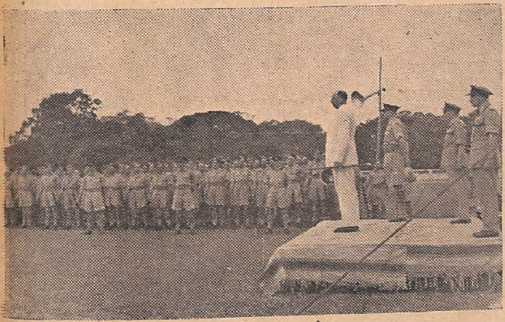
ACK—ACK GUNNERS' PARADE



The men standing to attention. In the group are C. S. M. Williams (Shenfield, Essex); Sgt. Mold, Windsor, Berkshire; Sgt. Partington, Deptford, London; Capt. S. Keeley, Birmingham; Driver Hughes, Bromley, Kent; Capt. Blakeman, Newcastle; and Cpl. Poulton, Southampton.

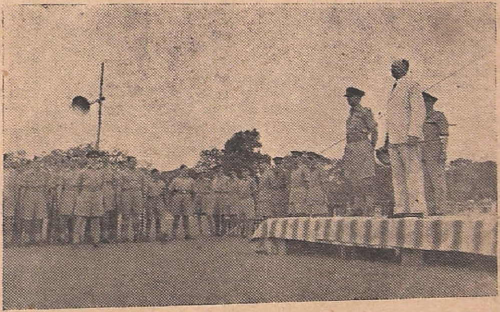


A bird's eye view of the men in parade. Seen in the picture *are Lieut. E. Marchant, Fife, Scotland; Sgt. Humphrey from London; Sgt. Lutterloch, London; Sgt. Snook, Bristol; Gnr. Wear, Cornwall; and Gnr. Lane, Liverpool.*

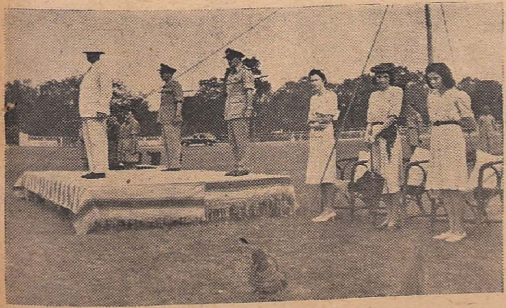


After the March-past and the taking of the salute, H.E. Sir Arthur Hope addressed the men. Standing on the dais *is the Governor and to his right is Lt.-Col. J. Daniel, T.D., R.A.*

Behind *His Excellency is his A.D.C. Capt. Coombes, to whose right is H.E'.s Military Secretary, Col. G. B. Howell.*



Another view. To his right *is Lt.-Col. J. Daniel, T.D., R.A. Others in the group are Major K. K. Rich, Cornwall; Major J.C.B. Daniel, Cornwall; Major T. B. Clarke, Yorkshire; Capt. B. V. Keighley, Yorkshire; Capt. E. Slade. Cornwall; Lieut. D. J. Coulson, Yorkshire; B. S. M. Elett, Cornwall; Sgt. Barnes, Cornwall; Sgt. Ward, Cornwall, Gnr. Higgs, Gloucester, Gnr. Mann, Middlesex, and Gnr. Smith, Durham.*



The saluting base with H.E. Sir Arthur Hope, in the foreground. Behind *His Excellency are his Military Secretary and A.D.C.* To the right *of the base some of the officers of the regiment are standing in a row.* To the left *are the Hon. Allison Hope, the Hon. Lady Hope, and the Hon. Barbara Hope.*

After the parade, the men were entertained to tea by a mobile canteen run by the ladies of Madras. The Hon. Lady Hope, who takes an active interest in the welfare of troops, is here seen talking to Gnr. R. J. Pinch, Indian Queen's, Fraddon, Cornwall.

THIRD MADRAS REGIMENT

HEAVY CASUALTIES INFLICTED ON JAPS ON IMPHAL FRONT

A keen botanist, the Colonel commanding the Madrassis, admires one of the many varieties of orchids found on these mountain slopes.

MADRAS REGIMENT ON IMPHAL FRONT.—Men of the Third Madras Regiment have been giving a good account of themselves on the Imphal Front.

Time off for a game of cards.

HAVING failed for twelve days by mortaring, machine-gunning and sniping to shake a detachment of Indian troops holding Sita Ridge, south-east of Imphal on the Tamu Road, the attacking Japanese tried a verbal barrage.

In this action and in many other clashes with the enemy, these South Indian troops have proved their worth. The battalion of the Third Madras Regiment, to which they belong, claims 150 Japs killed in recent fighting and treasures a number of swords and flags as battle trophies.

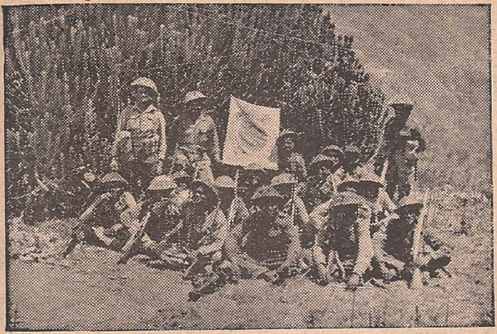
It is the first battalion of the Regiment to draw blood from the enemy, writes an Indian Army Observer. Raised in Bangalore in 1940 as a territorial unit, it became part of the regular army in October 1941. It made its first contact with the Japs in December 1943 when, at four hours' notice, a company moved 30 miles to take up a position at Tilaungwya, near the Yu River.

Rifle ready, L/Nk. Raman watches an enemy supply track.

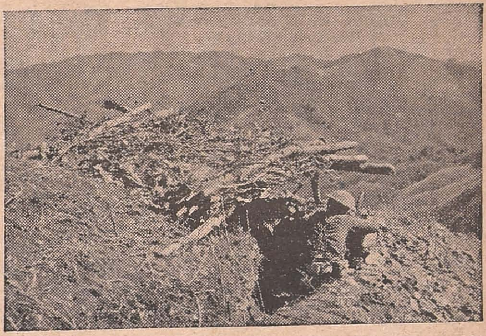
Still on active service with the battalion with fifteen years' territorial and four years' regular service to his credit is Subedar-Major Sudalaimuthu, once a school teacher at the Board High School at Koilpatti, Tinnevelly district, Madras. Of the officers, two-thirds are Madrassis carrying regimental duties performed in most battalions of the Indian Army by a high proportion of British officers.

ON IMPHAL FRONT

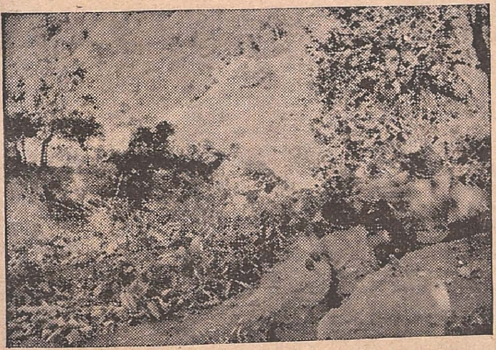
[Men of the Third Madras Regiment have been giving a good account of themselves on the Imphal Front. Here are pictures showing some of the men, and also illustrating the difficult country in which they are operating.]



Victorious Madrassis smile as they exhibit the Jap flag they have just captured.



Sepoy Meeramaideen trains his rifle on Jap positions across the valley. In the background is Sita Hill.



Water is scarce among the hills. In the distance water-laden mules wind up a steep-track. Higher up the water will be poured into bamboo "phagals," and carried on men's backs to the hill-tops.

Carried up the steep hills by the Sepoys, the water going into these two-gallon bamboo "phagals" will remain cool and sweet all day.

Concealed in this tree, crack sniper Chinnasamy Naidu keeps a keen eye on the enemy used-track below.

Men of a fighting patrol return from a sortie.

THE U.S.S.R.

THE Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (U.S.S.R.) occupies one-sixth of the surface of the globe. Over 22,700,000 square kilometres in area, it is the largest continuous state territory in the world and in 1939 had a population of over 193,000,000. Moscow is its capital.

The U.S.S.R. stretches west to east from the Carpathian Mountains and the Baltic Sea to the Pacific Ocean, and north to south from the Arctic Ocean to the Pamirs and the plains of Mongolia. The northern part of the U.S.S.R. is covered by the icy wastes of the Arctic; the southern part is covered by plantations of cotton, tea and citrous fruits.

The U.S.S.R. is rich in all the useful minerals, in all strategic raw materials that our globe contains. It occupies first place in the world for its deposits of iron ore (with quartzifes), oil, coal and peat, and for its hydro-electric energy and timber.

The U.S.S.R. was founded on the initiative of Lenin and Stalin, December 30, 1922, at the First All-Union Congress of Soviets.

At the time it was formed the U.S.S.R. was composed of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (R.S.F.S.R.), the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic (Ukrainian S.S.R.), the Byelorussian S.S.R., and the Transcaucasian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic, which consisted of the Georgian, Azerbaijan and Armenian Soviet Socialist Republics.

MAIN REPUBLICS

In 1925, the newly formed Turkmen and Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republics became constituent parts of the U.S.S.R., and in 1929, the Tajik S.S.R. In 1936, the Kazakh and Kirghiz Autonomous Republics, which had formerly belonged to the R.S.F.S.R., became main republics, or Union Republics, as they are called. In the same period after the dissolution of the Transcaucasian Federation, the Georgian, Azerbaijan and Armenian Republics became Union Republics.

In 1939, the peoples of Western Ukraine and Western Byelorussia joined the Ukrainian S.S.R. and the Byelorussian S.S.R., respectively. In the spring of 1940, the Karelian Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, and the bulk of the territory that was transferred to the U.S.S.R. in conformity with the peace treaty signed with Finland on March 12, 1940, joined to form the Karelo-Finnish S.S.R.

The summer of the same year a large part of Bessarabia, the bulk of the population of which is Moldavian, was joined to the Moldavian Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, which had formerly belonged to the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, and formed the Moldavian S.S.R.

In August 1940, three new Soviet republics affiliated to the U.S.S.R., viz., the Baltic Republics of Latvia, Lithuania and Esthonia.

Thus, the U.S.S.R. now consists of 16 voluntarily federated and equal Soviet Socialist Republics.

The U.S.S.R. is a State of a new type; it is a Socialist State of workers and peasants. Politically, it is based on the Soviets (or Councils) of Working People's Deputies, in which all power in the Union is vested.

Economically, the Soviet Union is based on Socialism, i.e., the social ownership of the means and instruments of production. Small private production by individual peasants and artisans is permitted, provided the owners work themselves and do not exploit the labour of others.

In 1938, socialist economy accounted for 99;9 per cent of the gross industrial output of the Soviet Union.

AN INDUSTRIAL POWER

The U.S.S.R. is an industrial power. From the largely agrarian country it had been in the past, it grew into a land of modern industry. By the end of 1937, the industrial output of the U.S.S.R. had increased more than eight-fold compared with 1913. Gigantic industrial plants like the Magnitogorsk, Kuznetsk and Chelyabinsk iron and steel mills, the Stalingrad Tractor Plant and the Dnieper Hydro-Electric Power Station, were erected. Entirely new industries which had not existed in the country before, were developed, such as the aircraft, automobile, tractor and chemical industries, and many more. The industrialization of the country was the result of the execution of the Five-Year Plans of national economic development, which the peoples of the U.S.S.R. call the Stalin Five-Year Plans, in honour of Stalin, who initiated them and directed their fulfilment.

The U.S.S.R. is also a collective farm-power. From an agrarian country in which small peasant farming predominated, the Soviet Union grew into a country where farming is conducted on a larger and more mechanized scale than in any other country in the world. Before the war in 1937, there were over 240,000 collective (co-operative) farms, conducted on the most up-to-date technical lines.

Thanks to the socialization of the means of production, there is no exploitation of man by man in the U.S.S.R. According to the census of 1939, industrial workers constitute 32;2 per cent of the working population, collective farmers 44;6 per cent and office employees, etc., 17;5 per cent.

Soviet society consists of two friendly classes—the working class and the peasantry. These classes are new social classes which know no exploitation. In the U.S.S.R. the intellectuals are vitally connected with the workers and peasants, and jointly with them wield the power in the country. The working people of the U.S.S.R. work for their own benefit for the benefit of their own state. The more the working man or woman produces for society, the more he receives from it, and the more prosperous the entire society becomes. This gives rise to mass labour heroism; it inspires hundreds and thousands of men and women to put their best into their work. This explains the rise and enormous extent of the Stakhanov movement, i.e., the movement initiated by the Donets Basin coal miner Stakhanov to achieve high rates of output.

Fundamental changes have taken place in the culture of the people of the U.S.S.R. Formerly the bulk of the population of Russia was illiterate and uneducated. The very opposite is the case to-day. According to the census of 1939, 77;7 per thousand of the population have received a secondary education, and 6;4 per thousand have received a higher education. Elementary education is now universal and compulsory.

The U.S.S.R. is a multi-national state. It is inhabited by over 180 different nations, nationalities and tribes, of which 60 are large and fully-formed nations. As a result of the industrialization of the U.S.S.R. and of the national policy pursued at the behest of Lenin and Stalin, the numerous nationalities of the U.S.S.R. have made extraordinarily rapid economic and cultural progress. Thus, in 1937, the industrial output of the Kazakh S.S.R. showed nearly an 18-fold increase compared with 1913, that of the Kirghiz S.S.R. a 160-fold increase and that of the Tajik S.S.R., a 157-fold increase, whereas that of the Soviet Union as a whole showed an eight-fold increase.

FIRMNESS AND DURABILITY

As a result of this policy, the close friendship and co-operation among the nations of the Soviet Union, which enjoy equality of rights in all spheres of life, have greatly strengthened, and is one of the main foundations of the firmness and durability of the Soviet State.

The constitution of the U.S.S.R., which was adopted at the Extraordinary Eighth Congress of Soviets of the U.S.S.R. on December 5, 1936, gave legislative seal and sanction to these fundamental changes in the country.

At the time the U.S.S.R. was formed Stalin prophesied that it would become "a formidable international force."

This forecast has been abundantly confirmed during the present war against Hitler Germany. In this struggle the U.S.S.R. is playing the progressive role of the mighty vanguard of the Anti-Hitler coalition. In the course of this war the prestige and popularity of the U.S.S.R. have grown immensely among all freedom-loving nations of the world.

CONSTITUTION

The constitution of the U.S.S.R. is the fundamental law of the country. It determines the organization of society and of the state in the Soviet Union, the structure of the local and higher governmental and administrative organs, as well as of the organs of the court and procurator's offices, and establishes the electoral system and the procedure for amending the constitution itself. It furthermore contains a description of the arms and the flag of the U.S.S.R. and fixed the capital of the country.

"The declaration of Rights of the Toiling and Exploited People," written by Lenin and approved by the Third All-Russian Congress of Soviets in January 1918, was actually Russia's first constitution. In July 1918, the Fifth All-Russian Congress of Soviets adopted

the Constitution of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic. This instrument served as the basic law for all peoples of Russia until the formation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

The first Constitution of the U.S.S.R. was ratified by the Second All-Union Congress of Soviets on Jan. 31, 1924. On the basis of this constitution the people built a Socialist Society.

The radical, economic and social changes in the country between 1924 and 1936 necessitated the framing of a new constitution which would reflect actual conditions in the new Soviet society.

With this end in view a Constitutional Commission presided over by Stalin was created on Feb. 7, 1935. It submitted the draft of a new constitution to the presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the U.S.S.R. for its approval, which done the draft was published for nation-wide discussion. This discussion lasted for more than 5 months and showed that the draft had virtually the unanimous endorsement of the Soviet people. On Dec. 5, 1936, the Extraordinary Eighth Congress of Soviets adopted the new Constitution of the U.S.S.R., popularly named the Stalin Constitution after its author.

POLITICAL FOUNDATION

The Soviets of Working People's Deputies constitute the political foundation of the U.S.S.R. In the U.S.S.R. all power belongs to the working people of town and country as represented by the Soviets of Working People's Deputies. The Constitution reflects the basic principles of Socialism, which have already been won and achieved in the U.S.S.R., and vests them with legislative authority, viz., the socialist ownership of land, forests, factories, mills and other means and instruments of production; the abolition of exploitation, poverty and unemployment; the designation of work as a duty and a matter of honour of every able-bodied citizen. The Constitution is premised on the fact that in Soviet society power is wielded by classes friendly to each other—the working class and the farmer. The Constitution proclaims the complete equality of all nations and races inhabiting the Soviet Union and the complete equality before the law of all citizens of the U.S.S.R.

The Stalin Constitution introduced universal, direct and equal suffrage by secret ballot; all citizens, irrespective of race or nationality, sex, religion, educational and residential qualifications, social origin, property status or past activities, enjoy equal political rights. They all have an equal right to work, to rest and leisure, to education, to maintenance in old age, to material and medical assistance in case of permanent or temporary loss of capacity to work, to inviolability of the person and of the home, etc.

The Soviet Constitution guarantees freedom of conscience, of speech, of the press, of assembly, including the holding of mass meetings, and of street processions and demonstrations.

DUTIES OF CITIZENS

The Constitution also sets forth as inviolable law the duties of citizens of the U.S.S.R., to abide by the Constitution, observe the laws, maintain labour discipline, honestly perform public duties, and respect the rules of socialist intercourse. It sets forth that it is the sacred duty of every citizen of the U.S.S.R. to defend his native land and that universal military service is law.

It is the duty of every citizen of the U.S.S.R. to safeguard and strengthen public property as the foundation of the Soviet system. At the same time the right of citizens to personal ownership of their incomes from work and of their savings, of their dwelling houses and of their subsidiary household economy, their household furniture and utensils and articles of personal use and convenience, as well as the right of inheritance of personal property of citizens, are protected by law.

Moreover, the Constitution of the U.S.S.R. does not confine itself to a declaration of rights and liberties but guarantees their exercise.

Thus, freedom of conscience is guaranteed by the separation of the church from the state and of the school from the church. Freedom of the press is guaranteed by placing at the disposal of the working people and their organizations, printing presses and stocks of paper; freedom of assembly, including the right to hold mass meetings is guaranteed by providing the necessary premises in public buildings. The right to rest and leisure is guaranteed by the granting of vacations with pay and the provision of rest homes, sanatoria and clubs. The right to medical assistance is guaranteed by free dispensaries, clinics and hospitals.

By decision of the Extraordinary Eighth Congress of Soviets of the U.S.S.R., the day on which the Stalin Constitution was adopted, December 5, was declared a national holiday.

ELECTORAL SYSTEM

According to the U.S.S.R. Constitution, all Soviets (or Councils), from Soviets of Working People's Deputies to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., are elected by universal, direct and equal suffrage, and secret ballot. All citizens of both sexes, who have reached the age of 18, have the right to elect and be elected, irrespective of nationality or race, religion, education, social origin, property status, or past activities. Citizens serving in the Red Army also have the right to vote and be elected like all other citizens.

There is no residential qualification under the Soviet electoral system. Every elector has the right to vote irrespective of the period he has resided in a given constituency. Facilities for voting are provided for patients at hospitals and even for citizens travelling on the day of national elections.

The law also removes all other obstacles that might hinder electors in exercising their rights (election ballots are printed in all the languages of the peoples of the U.S.S.R.; illiterates have the right to obtain assistance in filling out their ballot papers, etc.).

A citizen of the U.S.S.R., regardless of the position he may occupy, has one vote, and participates in the elections on an equal basis with every other citizen.

Voting is direct, i.e., the electors vote direct for the candidate for public office: there is no such thing as voting for electors or an electoral college. This establishes direct contact between the elected person and his constituents and enhances his responsibility to the latter.

In elections to the Soviet of the Union—one of the two Chambers of the Supreme Soviet—all election districts, whether urban or rural, are of equal size. For election purposes the country is divided up into electoral districts of 300,000 population, each electing one member. This guarantees the equality of all citizens in voting for the Soviet of the Union, which thus represents the common interests of all the working people.

For the elections to the other Chamber of the Supreme Soviet—the Soviet of Nationalities, which protects the special interests of the various nationalities of the country—each Union Republic regardless of its population, is entitled to 25 deputies, each Autonomous Republic to 11 deputies, each Autonomous Region to 5 deputies, and each National Area to 1 deputy. Thus all nationalities of the U.S.S.R., big or small, enjoy equal political rights under the Soviet Constitution.

SECRET BALLOT

The ballot is secret. The voter marks his ballot paper in a private compartment or booth.

The election system also makes provision for the recall of deputies upon decision of a majority of the electors, who thus exercise constant control over the work of their deputies, inasmuch as an elected person is regarded as a servant of the people.

Candidates for the elections may be nominated by public bodies and meetings of workers, peasants, intellectuals, and Red Army men, who are given every facility to promote the candidature of their nominees.

If an elector is not satisfied with any of the candidates in the field, he has the right, during voting, to inscribe on his ballot the name of the person he desires to have elected, this being legally accepted as both a nomination and a vote.

During elections, the high interest in politics shown by the people of the Soviet Union is demonstrated by their extreme activity at thousands of meetings attended by millions, and by the heavy vote that is usually polled—from 96 per cent to over 99 per cent of the total electors.

During elections, committees are formed in each constituency consisting of men and women of high repute and representatives of public organizations, to supervise the proper conduct of the elections and the fulfilment of all the requirements of the law. During the last elections to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., for example the members of the electoral committees which had charge of the elections in Moscow included 62 factory workers, 29 factory

managers and engineers, 10 Red Army men and officers, 9 teachers and 5 professors.

Violation of the electoral laws and tampering with the ballots are severely punished by law.

The electoral system of the Soviet Union is thus completely democratic, and attests the genuine democracy of the organs of state power in the U.S.S.R.

STATE STRUCTURE

The State Structure of the U.S.S.R. in accordance with the Stalin Constitution ensures to all citizens, irrespective of sex, nationality, race, education, social origin, etc., equal rights in all spheres of state, economic, cultural, social and political life. All organs of state power and administration are constructed so as to guarantee these rights to the citizens. The slightest direct or indirect restriction of these rights of citizens, or any advocacy of racial or nation exclusiveness in the U.S.S.R., is punishable by law.

The U.S.S.R. is a federal state consisting of 16 Soviet Republics, called Union Republics, which have united voluntarily and enjoy equal rights. To every Union Republic is reserved the right freely to secede from the U.S.S.R. The territory of a Union Republic may not be altered without its consent.

The Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (R.S.F.S.R.) and several other Union Republics in their turn include Autonomous Republics.

Each Union or Autonomous Republic has its own Constitution, which is the basis of the activity of the state organs of the republic and of the manifold development and flourishing of its economy, culture and art, in correspondence with the specific features and interests of each nationality.

THE SUPREME SOVIET

The highest organ of state authority of the U.S.S.R. is the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. The Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. consists of two Chambers, the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities. Both Chambers of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. have equal rights; each of them has the right to initiate legislation, and a law is considered adopted if passed by both Chambers of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. by a simple majority vote in each.

At the last elections to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. in December 1937, more than 91,000,000 out of 94,000,000 voters took part in the elections, or 96·8 per cent. Nearly 90,000,000 ballots, or 98·6 per cent of the total vote, were cast for the Communist and non-Party bloc.

A total of 1,143 deputies were elected to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. —954 men and 189 women. In the Supereme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. there are 480 workers (42 per cent of the total number of deputies), 337 peasants (29·5 per cent) and 326 intellectuals (28·5 per cent).

The proportion of social groups is approximately the same in the Supreme Soviets of the Union Republics and Autonomous Republic.

The legislative power of the U.S.S.R. is exercised exclusively by the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. The Presidium of the Supereme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. has the right to interpret the laws of the U.S.S.R. and to annual decisions and orders of the Councils of People's Commissars of the U.S.S.R. and of the Union Republics in case they do not conform to law. In the interval between sessions of the Supreme Soviet, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. appoints and relieves of their posts People's Commissars of the U.S.S.R. and ambassadors, proclaims a state of war in case of necessity, ratifies international treaties, receives the credentials and letters of recall of diplomatic representatives of foreign states, etc.

The Council of People's Commissars of the U.S.S.R., and the Councils of People's Commissars of the Union and Autonomous Republics are the highest executive and administrative organs of states authority. They are responsible to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., and the Supreme Soviets of the Union and Autonomous Republics, respectively.

The local organs of state authority are the Soviets of Working People's Deputies.

The social composition of the deputies to the local Soviets (City and Rural) is characterized by the following data: workers—135,000; peasants—749,000; employees—393,000. Intellectuals occupy an important place among the deputies to the Soviets of the working people—63,000 teachers, 7,000 doctors, more than 1,000 artists and writers, 13,000 agronomists, 11,000 engineers and technicians.

The number of women elected to the local Soviets of Working People's Deputies is 422,000, approximately 33 per cent of the total. The youth also take an active part in the administration of the state. Among the deputies to the local Soviets there are 193,000 between the ages of 18 and 24, which is 15 per cent of the total number; 40·4 per cent of the total number of deputies to the local Soviets are between the ages of 30 and 40.

BASIC GROUP

The basic group of deputies to the village Soviets are collective formers—623,000, or 65 per cent.

The system of state administration also provides for a court and procurator. Soviet Courts are elected either directly by the people (People's Courts) or by the Soviets of Working People's Deputies and the Supreme Soviets. The law ensures the independence of the judges. In all courts the accused is guaranteed the right to be defended by Counsel, and the right to use his own language in court, etc. The General state interests are secured by a single, strictly centralized and independent Procurator's Office which is not subordinate to the local Soviets and exercises supervisory power over the strict execution of the laws.

A UNITED MILITARY CAMP

On June 22, 1941, the peaceful life of the U.S.S.R. was suddenly interrupted by the attack of an insidious enemy. At the call of the Government, at the call of Stalin, the Soviet people rose in defence of their country, transforming it into a single military camp. Reorganization of the whole life and the entire national economy on a war footing was effected according to plan and with unusual rapidity.

During the four years of World War 1, Tsarist Russia was unable to gear its industry to war. The Soviet Union solved this task within three to four months, under the direction of the State Committee of Defence with Stalin at its head. Great difficulties were overcome: enterprises which, before the war, put out articles for general consumption, had to change over to the manufacture of armaments and munitions, to the mastering of new technological processes.

Enormous in themselves, these difficulties were aggravated by the fact that many enterprises had to be evacuated under enemy fire from threatened areas and regions to the east, to the Urals, to Siberia, to Central Asia. By their heroic labour, workers, engineers and railwaymen swiftly dismantled and evacuated equipment, plants and enterprises to new sites. Within 1½ to 2 months after arrival at the new locations, which were often nothing but remote waste land, plants were working again at full blast. As a result of this energetic work, in the very first year of the war, in spite of the loss of important industrial centres and mobilization of many workers for service at the front, Soviet industrial output was higher than before the war.

Profound love of country and the realization of the rightness of their cause inspire the Soviet people. The whole people, fighters at the front, workers in industry, are giving their all to defeat the enemy. In response to the feats of valour performed by the Red Army, the workers have been sending the front ever more tanks, cannon, tommy guns, trench mortars, munitions. At the initiative of the workers there arose a widespread movement for topping production plan, in order to pile up a reserve for the Supreme Command of the Red Army. A movement of "1,000'ers" arose, initiated and joined by production frontliners who fulfilled their output quotas by 1,000 per cent and more. When urgent Army orders are on hand, workers do not leave their posts for several days at a time.

Nor do the collective farmers lag behind the workers. They increased the sown area of the U.S.S.R. in 1942 by more than 2,000,000 hectares, as compared with 1941, and in 1943 cultivated almost 6,500,000 hectares more than in 1941. In order to supply the front with sugar and other products, the collective farmers of the North and East cultivated on a large scale crops which formerly had been considered a monopoly of the South. Sugar beet, for example, is now cultivated in Vologda and Kalinin Regions, in Bashkiria, Krasnoyarsk

Territory, Siberia. Thousands of Scientists, engineers, inventors and designers exercise every effort to create new, improved types of armaments. Soviet doctors, artists, writers, and cinema workers are labouring with unselfish devotion at their jobs, giving all their energy and strength to the common task of forging victory over the enemy. The Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. has become the general headquarters for the victory drive on the scientific front.

Soviet people manifest their patriotism in many ways. They render help to the front by contributing money to the Defence Fund; they build numerous tank columns, air squadrons, armoured trains as gifts to the Red Army from their personal savings. The enthusiasm with which the working masses have over-subscribed the state war loans is another example. In 1943, the second War Loan was floated at 12,000,000,000 roubles; the entire sum was covered in a single day; within a few days the population subscribed to 20,323,000,000 roubles!

Besides this, collective farmers in a very brief space of time donated more than 7,000,000,000 roubles from their personal savings for armaments for the Red Army.

There are more than 250,000 donors—workers, farmers, intellectuals, men and women—who give their blood to the wounded men and commanders of the Red Army, to save their lives and restore their health.

A constant stream of hundreds of thousands of gifts for the Red Army, from villages and town, goes to the front.

Wounded and invalided Red Army men as well as the families and children of men called to the colours are constant object of warm concern and attention.

In the rear of the enemy the Soviet people have risen to help the Red Army. These guerilla fighters make conditions unbearable for the German invaders, they disorganize the fascist rear, derail scores of enemy trains, destroy hundreds of thousands of Nazi invaders.

Their patriotism is reflected most strikingly in the warm helping hand which Soviet people stretch out to the liberated cities, villages, factories, plants, state farms and cultural institutions, to aid in speediest restoration. The entire country is helping heroic Stalingrad, the Donets basin, and other towns and areas, to return to normal life.

At the same time, despite all difficulties new construction in the U.S.S.R. does not cease for a single day. While driving the German fascist invaders from Soviet soil, the Soviet peoples are simultaneously building new metallurgical coke and chemical and machine-building plants, new mines and railways, which considerably raise the defence might of the country.

The danger which has threatened the Soviet Union has strengthened even more the ties which bind all the peoples of all the nationalities in the Soviet Union into a single, indestructible family. They are united by one common purpose, one lofty aim—the destruction and expulsion of the foreign enslavers from the Land of Soviets.

INDUSTRIALIZATION

Tsarist Russia's economy was backward. Industrial output constituted in 1913 only 42·1 per cent of the total output of the national economy. The country imported machinery and equipment from abroad and its war industry was of small account.

World War I strongly undermined the insufficient productive forces of the country. The subsequent blockade and the military intervention of 1918–21 reduced Soviet Russia to a state of utter prostration. In 1920, production was 14 per cent of the pre-war output.

Having restored the national economy to the pre-war level in a few years of peacetime work, in 1925 the Soviet Government embarked on its historical task of industrializing the country, of converting agrarian Russia in a minimum of time into an advanced industrial power independent economically and technically of other states.

The Soviet people reconstructed their old and created new industry according to plans drawn up by Lenin and Stalin. It 1926, the construction of huge tractor plant was begun in Stalingrad, the first of its kind in the Soviet Union. At the same time the building of a big railroad trunk line uniting Siberia with the Soviet republics of Central Asia was also undertaken. The course of the Dnieper River was diverted to provide for the gigantic Dnieper Hydro-Electric Power Station. The whole country enthusiastically participated in the construction of such giants of industry as the Magnitogorsk metallurgical plant in the Urals and the Kuznetsk metallurgical plant in Siberia, and of hundreds of other new factories, mines, power stations, grain elevators, huge city structures and many thousand kilometres of railway line. New schools, clubs, theatres, hospitals and dwellings were erected. This stupendous construction programme was provided for by the five-year plans for the economic development of the U.S.S.R., popularly known as the Stalin Five-Year Plans.

New industrial cities sprang up, new factories and mills were erected on waste land in the Steppes and Vast deserts. The face of the country was changed. The former acute backwardness of the non-Russian border nationalities of the U.S.S.R. vanished. By the end of 1937 the industrial index of the Soviet Union was 429, taking 1929 as 100, and its output was more than eight times as great as in 1913.

The industrialization of the U.S.S.R. was accomplished solely through the country's own internal resources: profits from state-owned enterprises, such as factories, mills transportation systems, banks, internal loans, trade, etc. With industrialization came a sharp rise in the standard of living of the masses. Unemployment was abolished completely and for ever in the cities, while the poverty of the countryside disappeared, never to return. Hundreds of thousands of technically skilled workers were trained, and a new army of professional workers, Soviet intellectuals, arose.

As a result of industrialization, the U.S.S.R. ceased to be a machine-importing country, and became a machine-building country capable of satisfying all its needs for defence.

In its eastern regions the Soviet Union has established a vast raw-material base for industry which ensures the country the necessary supply of strategic materials and fuel. Many branches of industry that virtually did not exist under the tsarist regime have been firmly established under the Soviets and to-day operate on a large scale. This includes the machine-building, chemical, automobile and aviation industries.

The successes achieved in industrialization, particularly the establishment of a powerful base for the manufacture of agricultural machinery, also made it possible to reorganize farming and to effect a radical change in the conditions of farm labour. This led to improvement in the well-being of the entire population, both in town and countryside. The farmers were supplied with over 500,000 tractors, about 200,000 harvester combines and hundreds of thousands of other agricultural machines. All these successfully operated on the big collective farms that the peasants voluntarily organized. Rationally employed, according to carefully worked out plans, these machines have brought bumper crops.

A SINGLE PLAN

As soon as the present Great Patriotic War broke out, the entire national economy of the U.S.S.R., governed by a single plan, was reorganized to serve the needs of the front. Thousands of factories which formerly turned out a variety of products for the peacetime needs of the population, switched over to manufacturing armaments for the Red Army. With the war going on, many factories were evacuated from the West to the East to evade seizure by the invading fascist hordes. The world had never witnessed such wholesale migration of industries accompanied by their personnel. This evacuated industry, coupled with the powerful plants that already existed before the war in the East, in the Urals, in Siberia, to-day play a decisive role in supplying the Red Army with armaments.

Thanks to its policy of industrialization, the Land of Soviets was able to throw into the scales against the Nazis a grand and still-growing array of giant modern well-equipped plants which are producing the wherewithal in terms of economic and military force to smash the fascist hordes.

SOVIET TRADE UNIONS

In Russia the trade unions as mass organizations began to develop during the Revolution of 1905. When the revolution was crushed the tsarist Government drove them underground.

After the fall of tsarism in 1917 the trade unions developed their activity in all cities and industrial regions. From the outset they rejected the principle based on narrow trade union interests; they organized the workers by entire industries rather than along narrow craft lines. "One Big Industrial Union" was their motto, with all the workers of the given enterprise in the same union.

The trade unions of the U.S.S.R. unite in voluntary organizations the

workers and employees engaged in any profession, trade or branch of production. They accept workers and employees irrespective of their nationality, race or religion. They are neither party nor state organizations; membership dues in all unions amount to 1 per cent of the wages or salary earned, and are payable each month.

Each trade union is headed by an elected central committee, while the work of all the unions is under the general direction of the elected All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions. At each factory, mill, office, etc., there is a local trade union committee, elected at stated intervals by all the trade union members employed there.

Soviet trade unions pay profound attention to the everyday needs of their members and also give them legal aid and advice, and so on. They organize competitions among the workers for the highest overfulfilment of production plans* in each enterprise. In accordance with the Soviet Constitution, the trade unions nominate their candidates for the various Soviets of Working People's Deputies. Generally, they foster Soviet consciousness and patriotism among their members.

MAIN OBJECT

The main object of the trade unions is to organize the masses for the most rapid development of the national economy and the greatest improvement in the material conditions of everyday life and cultural level of the working people. Wages and salaries are regulated by the conclusion of a collective agreement between the management of an enterprise and its workers. The trade unions ensure the observance by the management of all labour legislation and safety regulations. They also have control over social insurance. They possess their own resorts, sanatoria, rest-homes and convalescent homes where their members may spend their annual two to four weeks' vacations. The funds accumulated from membership dues are used to build clubs, palaces and parks of culture and rest, and to maintain trade schools, study courses and other cultural and educational institutions in which millions of working people can spend their leisure time to raise their cultural and professional level. The trade unions have enormous cultural and educational facilities at their disposal; 6,000 palaces of culture and clubs, 15,000 libraries, 10,000 cinema theatres, etc.

Trade union members, particularly Stakhanovites and shock workers, are accorded first consideration in the enjoyment of all these privileges. The comparatively few non-union members receive secondary consideration. Non-union members receive only 50 per cent of the sick benefits paid to trade union members.

The development of the national economy following the industrialization of the country led to a tremendous numerical increase in the working class and made it necessary for the trade unions to bring their leadership in closer contact with the enterprises and to exercise greater solicitude for the well-being of the workers.

In 1934, therefore, the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions passed a decision to divide up the unwieldy unions, and at the same time move the central committees to the centres of their respective industries (Baku, Sverdlovsk, etc.). This facilitated the handling of questions dealing with the everyday needs of the vast bulk of the workers as well as those concerning production and cultural matters.

Instead of the 22 trade unions which in 1924 had a total membership of 6,000,000, there were in 1935, after the division of the unions, 154 of them whose aggregate membership had grown to 20,000,000. The trade unions were empowered to exercise governmental control over the observance of the provisions of labour legislation, so that the People's Commissariat of Labour became superfluous and was abolished. All the functions of the Social Insurance Bureau as well as its funds were turned over to them. In addition they had the exercise of public control over the work of shops, their supply bases, etc.

The trade union membership has been increasing constantly. In 1938 the total membership was 24,000,000; in 1940 25,500,000.

The Red Army has also been receiving much direct aid from the trade unions in the form of a vast network of hospitals which the unions have created from their sanatoria, rest-homes, clubs, etc. Thousands of ailing and recuperating Soviet officers and men are now accommodated there. Besides this the trade unions pay special attention to the needs of their families in the rear.

In the autumn of 1941 an Anglo-Soviet Trade Union Committee was formed for the purpose of uniting the efforts of the workers of both countries in their joint struggle against Hitler Germany. The trade unions in the Soviet Union are aiming at the intensification of this committee's activities, particularly for the purpose of uniting the working class of the anti-Hitler coalition countries in their struggle to bring about the quickest possible defeat of the common enemy.

COLLECTIVE FARMS

Conditions were unbearable for the peasants in Tsarist Russia. Most of them had no land of their own, or possessed extremely small holding worked with primitive implements. After the October Revolution the peasants were given the free use of the land that had formerly belonged to the Tsarist family and other big landlords, totalling 150,000,000 hectares of arable land, meadows and forests. With the aid of the Soviet Government the peasants considerably improved their material conditions. But as long as they continued to till their small holdings separately, they were not in a position to make proper use of complex modern agricultural machinery or employ scientific farming methods.

Lenin pointed out to the peasants the road to prosperity and a life of culture. He told them that unless they united, pooled their resources and formed co-operative artels, unless they worked their land collectively, they would never get out of the old rut and would always remain poor and ignorant. He recommended that they form big collective farms on which scientific methods and modern machinery could be used to advantage. From the example of the big Soviet state-owned farms where modern methods and machinery were employed with great success, the peasants realized that large-scale farming paid.

In 1928 almost four times as much Soviet farm machinery was made as before World War 1, and a number of huge tractor plants was under construction. This meant that the material basis would be provided for the peasantry to pass over from small-scale individual tillage to large-scale social farming. Beginning with 1929 the peasants, despite the opposition of big farmers (Kulaks), entered the collective farms in a solid mass. They formed farming co-operatives or artels, voluntarily associating to carry on large-scale collective farming with socialized means of production, that is, all the machines, implements, barns, etc., were to be owned in common by the members of a collective farm.

In the U.S.S.R. the land belongs to the state. By special acts the land is secured to the collective farms for permanent use and free of charge.

RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF MEMBERS

The rights and duties of the members of a collective farm, the division of collective work, and the distribution of the collective income, are all regulated by the Collective Farm Rules which follow a given model and are adopted by a general meeting of the collective farmers. These rules provide for the socialization of only the principle means of production, such as draft animals, agricultural implements, seed reserves, and farm buildings. A plot of land adjoining each household remains at the disposal of that private household. Besides, each collective farm family has its own property: dwellings, private livestock (cow, sheep and goats), poultry, etc.

The collective farms receive state aid through the numerous Government-owned machine and tractor stations organized in all districts of the country; their agricultural machinery together with their operating crews are employed by the collective farms.

The rules require that the farm set aside part of its income in kind to meet obligatory deliveries to the state, to pay the machine and tractor stations and to provide for collective farm funds, such as seed reserves, social insurance and insurance against poor harvests. Part of the farm's monetary income is used for paying state taxes and insurance, for repairs of implements, and for business expenses and cultural purposes, etc.

The balance of the farm's income in kind and money is distributed among the collective farm members according to the quantity and quality of work each person has put in. This is calculated in so-called work-day units.

The work-day unit is the measure of the quantity and quality of output of a collective farmer. It is a standard measure based on the average amount and quality of work that should be done at a given job in one work-day, depending on the conditions of the job, the draft animals and soil, the degree of mechanization, etc. The work-day unit for every single type of farm work is determined by the administration

and has to be endorsed and accepted by a general meeting of the members of the collective farm.

The rate of pay for each work-day unit in kind and cash is also determined by the collective farm administration and endorsed by a general meeting of the collective farmers.

The more and the better a collective farmer has worked, the more work-day units he will have earned and the greater his share of the general collective income will be.

* * *

In this way the rules ensure the development of the collective economy as constituting the basis of the prosperity of the collective farmers, and correctly combines this with their personal interests.

In 1932, 61·5 per cent and in 1938, 93·5 per cent of all farms in the U.S.S.R. were collectivized. In 1938 they comprised 99·3 per cent of the country's entire sown area. Instead of the former 18,800,000 individual small farms, millions of which were only patches, there were 242,400 large-sized rapidly developing collective farms organized, with a total of over 117,000,000 hectares of arable land. Thus in a short time an end was put to poverty in the countryside and a system of farming established that operates on the largest scale in the world with modern machinery and scientific methods.

The invasion of the Fascist hordes has put the collective farms to a serious test. They have had the difficult task of making good the temporary loss of enemy-occupied agricultural areas, particularly the Ukraine.

The Soviet farmer has spared no effort to strengthen the Soviet State. He sends his sons to the front, supplies the fighting men with bread, meat, butter and other produce, and industry with raw materials. He contributes his savings for the manufacture of additional armaments, and this he has done on a large scale. There is, for instance, Ferapont Golovati, a member of the Stakhanovets Collective Farm in Saratov Region, who contributed 100,000 rubles out of his personal savings to build a fighter plane which he turned over to the Red Navy air arm. Hundreds and thousands of collective farmers have followed his example, donating 7,000,000,000 rubles for the Red Army Fund from their personal savings.

When they launched their attack against the U.S.S.R., the leaders of Hitler Germany expected the collective farms to fall to pieces as soon as the Nazi forces struck their first blow, this disintegration to be inevitably followed by the collapse of Soviet power. But it was a gross miscalculation. The collective-farm system not only did not fall to pieces, but actually grew stronger. Millions of collective farmers are ready to give their lives in defence of their country and of their system of farming which has made it possible for them to lead a life of culture and prosperity.

WAR DIARY

BRITAIN AND GERMANY

2ND MAY.—Allied military preparations for a mass assault on Europe and comparable plans to knock Japan out of the Pacific formed the basis of the talks that took place between Dominion Prime Ministers.

Allied aircraft bombed Ludwigshafen.

3RD MAY.—The Commonwealth Prime Ministers to-day concluded their three-day examination of the military situation and reached complete agreement on all aspects of the coming assault on the Continent. The Prime Ministers have also concluded their consideration of the prosecution of the war against Japan and here too there has been absolute agreement on decisions to hasten the end of the war in the Pacific.

British aircraft bombed Leverkusen.

4TH MAY.—The Admiralty announces that the submarine H.M.S. "Stonehenge" must be presumed lost.

Allied armistice plans to be presented to Germany after surrender were among the subjects disposed of by the resumed conference of British Commonwealth Prime Ministers.

5TH MAY.—In to-day's meeting of the Dominion Premiers Conference political side of the plans the great Powers have for the occupation of Germany and the organization being prepared for the administration of the occupied States of Europe as they are liberated, were discussed.

His Majesty the King to-day visited the secret R.A.F. Invasion Headquarters.

Mosquitoes of the Bomber Command attacked objectives in western Germany last night.

6TH MAY.—Rommel in a speech to his Commanders said "The enemy whose attack must be reckoned as imminent, will come up against many surprises."

7TH MAY.—Royal Navy forces torpedoed a German destroyer. Allied aircraft attacked Berlin and other places in Germany.

8TH MAY.—Allied bombers heavily bombed Berlin and Brunswick.

The Commonwealth Prime Ministers have met again to-day. They have now begun to consider problems of post-war reconstruction.

A few German raiders were over the coastal districts in southern England last night.

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THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE ATLANTIC

3RD MAY.—A State Department statement says "Preliminary exploratory discussions on petroleum between a group of experts representing the Governments of the United States and the United Kingdom which begun in Washington on April 16 concluded to-day."

5TH MAY.—Mr. Edward R. Stettinius, United States Under-Secretary of State, has returned to Washington after his visit to London. He said that his discussions were "most successful."

6TH MAY.—Mr. Stettinius made another statement to pressmen on Anglo-American talks.

The United States Ambassador to Russia, Mr. Averell Harriman, arrived at Washington for consultations.

7TH MAY.—President Roosevelt returned to Washington after a month's vacation in the south.

8TH MAY.—The United States War Department announced to-day that prisoners of war in United States totalled 183,613.

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INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

2ND MAY.—In North Burma, a unit of the Chinese 22nd division, has captured a Japanese strong point. There has been increase of activity in Palel area.

During recent patrols in Far Eastern waters His Majesty's submarines sank one Japanese destroyer in the Bay of Bengal, south of Andaman Islands. Another destroyer and two supply vessels were hit and damaged. Jap shore batteries in Port Blair area were shelled.

The Maharaja of Kashmir and Sir F. K. Noon addressed the Empire Parliamentary Association at London.

3RD MAY.—In North Burma more enemy strong points have been destroyed. North of Kohima Allied troops continued to capture enemy positions. North and north-east of Imphal Allied advance has progressed. Chinese troops captured Inkangahtawng.

4TH MAY.—A Jap U-boat was destroyed south-west of Socotra in the Indian Ocean. North and south of Kohima there was patrol activity. Round the Imphal plain there has been no important change.

5TH MAY.—Allied troops are attacking at all points on the Kohima front and are making satisfactory progress. There are minor clashes north of Imphal plain.

Marshal Thomas Melling Williams has been appointed Deputy Commander, Headquarters, Eastern Air Command. Air Vice-Marshal Gerald Ernest Gibbs has been appointed Senior Air Staff Officer, Headquarters, Third Tactical Air Force.

6TH MAY.—On the Kohima front the Allies have cleared the enemy from a number of important positions and the Allied advance continues.

7TH MAY.—Allied troops withdrew from Buthidaung. North and south of Kohima Allied troops are consolidating their recently captured positions.

8TH MAY.—On all sectors of the Manipur Hill front there is now a general Japanese offensive. From Imphal plain, Allied patrols have penetrated to 28 miles north of Imphal on the Kohima Road. In the hills north-east of Palel, Allied troops have captured two villages.

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RUSSIA AND FINLAND

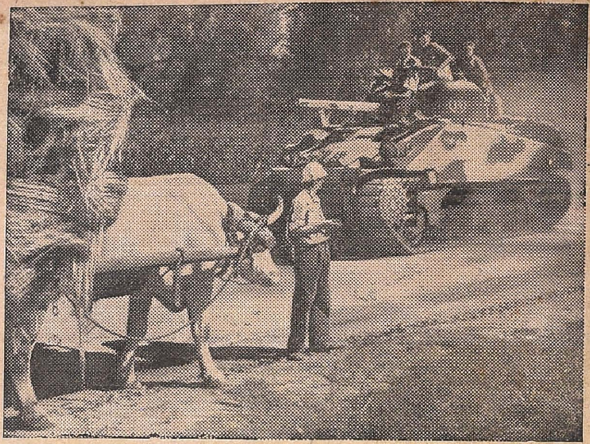
2ND MAY.—Soviet aircraft heavily bombed Lvov. The Russians launched an attack on both sides of the Middle Sereth.

3RD MAY.—Soviet troops continued attacks south-west of Kovel.

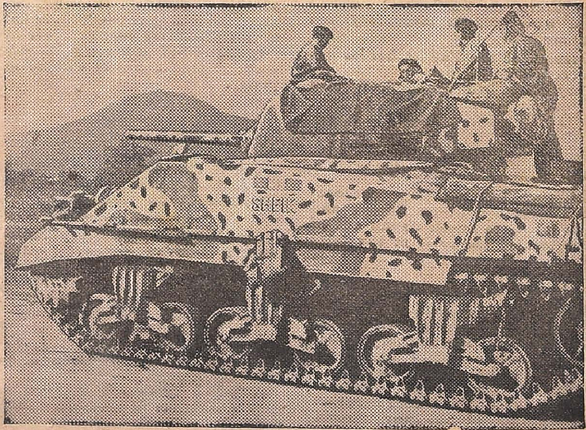
4TH MAY.—The Soviet Air Force has now worked up to a new climax in the series of pre-offensive softening-up blows against the Germans all along the southern Russian battle front. Sharp battles are taking place in the foot-hills of the Carpathian Mountains.

5TH MAY.—The Russians have won possession of a sector on the Sereth front.

6TH MAY.—Russians re-opened their attack on Sebastapol. German attacks on Stanislovov were thrown back.



Italian farmer cheers British tankmen.



A Sherman Tank.

7TH MAY.—The Soviet stranglehold on Sebastapol is tightening.

8TH MAY.—Russian troops have broken through the main defences at Sebastapol and are pushing forward to the immediate approaches of the city.

ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

3RD MAY.—The Germans have flooded large areas of the Pontine Marshes. Patrols continued active and there were some small clashes.

4TH MAY.—Indian troops of the Eighth Army repulsed a small enemy attack. Allied patrols and artillery were active on all fronts.

5TH MAY.—The Central and Cassino sectors remained quiet but lively patrol activity was reported both on the bridgehead and along the Upper Garigliono.

Rommel is on a tour of inspection of the Mediterranean coastal defences.

6TH MAY.—Several small engagements took place at scattered points along the fronts.

7TH MAY.—Enemy raids on the Fifth Army bridgehead and the upper Garigliono valley were repulsed. Normal patrolling and artillery activity took place in other fronts.

VICHY, FREE FRANCE AND THE OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

2ND MAY.—British bombers attacked Toulouse, Lyons and Paris. Two places in Belgium were also bombed.

3RD MAY.—United States bombers attacked targets in Pas de Calais area.

4TH MAY.—The R.A.F. attacked last night Rheims, Nailly, Montdidier and Chateudum in France. German airfields in Holland were attacked to-day. Bucharest was bombed.

5TH MAY.—Allied aircraft bombed Pas de Calais area. Budapest was bombed last night by Anglo-American bombers.

6TH MAY.—Allies bombed Pas de Calais area in France and Ploeste in Rumania.

7TH MAY.—Allied bombers attacked military targets in Mantes; Aubigne-Racan and Sable-Swa-Sarthe in France and Bucharest in Rumania.

8TH MAY.—The Paris radio said this morning that north of France has been bombed almost without interruption for the last 36 hours.

THE NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

2ND MAY.—Mr. Anthony Eden announced in the Commons that an agreement has been signed between Britain, the United States and Spain.

3RD MAY.—The British Minister of Economic Warfare made a statement on the assistance of Neutrals to the Axis.

4TH MAY.—The Turkish Foreign Minister M. Menemencioglu said that Turkey must continue to be prepared and watchful.

THE FAR EAST

2ND MAY.—American planes bombed Truk.

United States submarines have sunk 12 Japanese ships including three warships in the Pacific and Far East, says the United States Navy Department's communiqué issued to-day. The latest sinkings bring to 695 the number of Jap ships of all types sunk, probably sunk or damaged by United States submarines.

During recent patrols in Far Eastern waters H.M.'s submarines sunk three enemy vessels in the Malacca Straits.

3RD MAY.—It is estimated that since April 1942, the Allies have sunk 1,727 vessels and damaged 3,548.

The Australians have pushed five miles beyond Alexishafen airbase.

4TH MAY.—Allied bombers attacked military objectives in Hansa Bay, Uligan, Hatzfeldt, Vunakambi and Rakada.

5TH MAY.—Allied forces have made landings at Torare Bay and at Demta in Dutch New Guinea.

It is revealed that Commander-in-Chief of the Japanese Combined Fleet Admiral Miniechi Koga had been killed in action.

6TH MAY.—Ponape and Truk were bombed.

In China, the Jap troops have come within sight of Loyang, six times the Capital of China.

7TH MAY.—Jap positions in Wewak and Hansa Bay areas in New Guinea, Kavieng and Borpop in New Ireland, Rabaul in New Britain were bombed by Allied bombers.

8TH MAY.—It is revealed that United States bombers from China attacked Saigon in Indo-China last Friday. Allied planes hit eight ships in a Jap convoy, east of Celebes. Allied bombers bombed Schouten Island.

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